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March 27, 1997      LB 66, 851

SPEAKER WITHEM:      Senator Schrock, there are no further lights on.      The question before the body is, shall LB 66 be advanced? All in favor vote aye. Opposed vote nay. Record.

CLERK:      26 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the advancement of LB 66.

SPEAKER WITHEM:      LB 66 advances.      Mr. Clerk, LB 851.

CLERK:      (LB) 851, by Senator Crosby. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 22 of this year, referred to the Health Committee for hearing, advanced to General File. I have no amendments to the bill, Mr. President.

SPEAKER WITHEM:      Senator Crosby.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members. LB 851 is a technical bill. The Commission on the Hearing Impaired will continue to operate the same way as it has since its inception in serving the deaf and hearing impaired community, as it always has. What we are doing with this bill is changing the name of the commission to, the Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. We've had an interim study since I first brought this bill because we wanted to be sure that all of the people who are part of this community had their say concerning why the name is being changed and so on. The commission wants the name change because it's more reflective of the language accepted today in reference to the community they serve. They also...the bill also slightly changes the membership of the commission. LB 851 still provides for nine commissioners just as we have in the current law. The difference is that three members must be deaf, three members must be hard of hearing, with the majority of those six able to communicate by sign language, and three members must have interest in and knowledge of deafness and hearing loss issues. That's all the bill does. If you have any questions I'd be happy to answer them. Otherwise, I would just ask for the bill to move. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM:      Thank you, Senator Crosby. Any discussion? Hearing none. The question is, shall LB 851 be advanced? All in favor vote aye. Opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.